## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNICEF, CO

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF: BOGOTA 4009

1. CURRENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF HENRY R. LABOUISSE (AMERICAN) HAS INDICATED HE PLANS TO STEP DOWN AT END OF 1977. HIS REPLACEMENT WILL BE NAMED, NOT RPT NOT ELECTED, BY SYG WALDHEIM AFTER QUOTE CONSULTATION UNQUOTE WITH UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD. EXTENT AND FORM OF CONSULTATION UNSPECIFIED, AND WE STRONGLY DISAPPROVE OF ANY IDEA OF ELECTION PROCEDURE BY BOARD WHICH WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED. THERE IS NO RPT NO REASON FOR MATTER TO COME BEFORE BOARD (WHICH MEETS IN MANILA, MAY 17 TO JUNE 3).

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- 2. U.S. HAS PROPOSED NAME OF JAMES B. GRANT TO THE SYG AND HE IS U.S. CANDIDATE. SWEDES, BACKED BY NORDICS, HAVE PROPOSED ERNST MICHANEK.
- 3. DEPARTMENT PLANS SEND INSTRUCTIONS SHORTLY TO EMBASSY TO INFORM GOC OFFICIALLY OF GRANT CANDIDACY AND TO PROVIDE CURRICULUM VITAE ON GRANT WHOM WE BELIEVE IS VASTLY

SUPERIOR CANDIDATE FOR THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT POST WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELD BY AN AMERICAN. IN MEANTIME, YOU MAY INFORMALLY STATE TO GOC U.S. HAS IN FACT PRESENTED GRANT FOR POSITION AND THAT YOU EXPECT SHORTLY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HIS QUALIFICATIONS.

4. CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE BOARD IS DR. ANTONIO ORDONEZ-PLAJA OF COLOMBIA. DURING RECENT VISIT HERE DEPT OFFICERS URGED HIS SUPPORT FOR GRANT WHOM ORDONEZ SUBSEQUENTLY SAW AND WAS IMPRESSED. DEPT HAS HEARD RUMORS ORDONEZ IS IN DISFAVOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH ALLEGEDLY DELIBERATELY FAILED TO PUT COLOMBIA UP FOR RE-ELECTION TO UNICEF BOARD AND THUS FORESTALLED POSSIBILITY RE-ELECTION OF ORDONEZ AS CHAIRMAN. NEVERTHELESS, WE CONSIDER ORDONEZ FRIENDLY TO U.S. AND MISSION SHOULD MAKE SEPARATE APPROACH TO HIM WITH COPY OF GRANT QUALIFICATIONS WHEN RECEIVED TO REINFORCE HIS OWN FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. ORDONEZ MAY ALSO HAVE SOME SENSE OF WHAT OTHER BOARD MEMBERS MAY BE THINKING.

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## Message Attributes

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